

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO. EF077944559US

09/979518

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

U.S. Patent Application Claiming Priority Of:

Priority Appl.: PCT/US00/13960
 Int'l Appl.
 Filing Date: 19 May 2000
 Applicants: SCHANKE, Judith E.T.
 Title: REVERSE TRANSCRIPTION ACTIVITY
 FROM BACILLUS STEAROTHERMOPHILUS
 DNA POLYMERASE IN THE PRESENCE
 OF MAGNESIUM
 Docket No.: 310307.90134

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

In the case of the above-identified U.S. application, Applicants respectfully request that the following amendment be entered.

In the Claims

Please delete claims 1-38. Please add the following new claims:

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

39. A method of preparing one or more cDNA molecules from one or more RNA templates, comprising:
- (a) mixing one or more RNA templates with a purified thermostable template-dependent DNA polymerase from the species *Bacillus stearothermophilus* comprising reverse transcriptase activity in the presence of magnesium ions at a concentration of at least 1 mM and in the substantial absence of manganese ions to form a mixture; and
 - (b) incubating said mixture under conditions sufficient to synthesize one or more cDNA molecules